

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims, presented herein below will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

**In The Claims**

1. (previously presented) A method for reducing cardiovascular disease complications in a patient following surgery comprising the step of: administering to the patient a pharmacologic cardiovascular agent prior to or during surgery, or immediately after surgery, and daily thereafter until symptoms of cardiovascular stress are reduced or the patient is discharged from the hospital wherein the agent is administered near the maximum effective dose of the agent while the patient's heart rate is greater than or equal to 65 bpm, while the patient's systolic blood pressure is greater than or equal to 100 mm Hg, and while the patient evidences no congestive heart failure, third degree heart block, or bronchospasm.
2. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 in which the agent is administered daily in the period after surgery until hospital discharge.
3. (previously presented) The method of Claim 2 in which the agent is administered daily in the period after surgery for at least three days.
4. (previously presented) The method of Claim 2 in which the agent is administered daily in the period after surgery for up to seven days.
5. (original) The method of Claim 1 in which the agent is a  $\beta_1$ -adrenergic selective blocking agent.
6. (original) The method of Claim 5 in which the agent is atenolol.
- 7-12. (cancelled)
13. (original) The method of Claim 1 in which the surgery is cardiac-related surgery.

14. (original) The method of Claim 1 in which the surgery is non-cardiac-related surgery.
15. (original) The method of Claim 1 in which the patient suffers from coronary artery disease.
16. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the patient is at risk for coronary artery disease.
- 17-48. (cancelled)
49. (previously presented) A method for reducing cardiovascular disease complications in a patient following surgery comprising the step of: administering to the patient a pharmacologic cardiovascular agent wherein the agent is
  - a) administered prior to or during surgery, or immediately after surgery, and daily thereafter until symptoms of cardiovascular stress are reduced or the patient is discharged from the hospital wherein the agent is administered near the maximum effective dose of the agent while the patient's heart rate is greater than or equal to 65 bpm, while the patient's systolic blood pressure is greater than or equal to 100 mm Hg, and while the patient evidences no congestive heart failure, third degree heart block, or bronchospasm; or
  - b) administered prior to or during surgery, or immediately after surgery, and daily thereafter until symptoms of cardiovascular stress are reduced or the patient is discharged from the hospital wherein the agent is administered at about one half of the maximum effective dose of the agent while the patient's heart rate is greater than or equal to 55 bpm, but less than 65 bpm, while the patient's systolic blood pressure is greater than 100 mm Hg, and while the patient evidences no congestive heart failure, third degree heart block, or bronchospasm.
50. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 in which the patient has had previous vascular surgery or has at least two of the following cardiac risk factors: older than 65 years, hypertensive, current smoker, serum cholesterol level of at least 6.2 mmol/L, or diabetes mellitus.

51. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 in which the agent is atenolol and the maximum effective dose is about 100 mg/day orally or about 10 mg BID intravenously.
52. (previously presented) A method for reducing cardiovascular disease complications in a patient following surgery comprising the step of: administering to the patient a pharmacologic cardiovascular agent prior to or during surgery, or immediately after surgery, and daily thereafter through and following hospital discharge wherein the agent is administered near the maximum effective dose of the agent while the patient's heart rate is greater than or equal to 65 bpm, while the patient's systolic blood pressure is greater than or equal to 100 mm Hg, and while the patient evidences no congestive heart failure, third degree heart block, or bronchospasm.
53. (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 wherein the agent is administered daily for six months following surgery.
54. (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 wherein the agent is administered daily for eight months following surgery.